



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **USDA PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE CITY OF GRANDVIEW TO PURCHASE NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES**

Grandview ---The city has been working with substandard emergency response vehicles and facing a reduction in the fire insurance rating, but help is on the way thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Like most communities, the city has been facing a financial crisis with its revenues declining by about \$580,000 per year, as a result of cancellation by the State of Washington Motor Vehicle Excise Tax and Sales Tax Equalization. This, combined with the closure of two major food processors, has made it impossible to fund new fire equipment for the Grandview Volunteer Fire Department since 1995.

The city was recently notified that USDA Rural Development has approved a \$100,000 grant from funding that was set aside for USDA Enterprise Zones/Enterprise Communities around the nation. The city is leveraging the funds with \$370,000 of emergency funds to help finance the replacement of two fire engines that do not meet current safety standards. This improvement to the fire fighting fleet will help the community retain its fire rating, which otherwise would have cost the community a very significant increase in insurance rates. The threat to public safety due to inadequate fire protection equipment will be greatly reduced. Most importantly, this grant will provide the support needed for the city's volunteer firefighters, whose lives are at further risk with unsafe and inadequate fire trucks. On the economic front, the city can recruit new businesses and new jobs without worrying about adequate fire protection and soaring fire insurance rates.

"USDA Rural Development is pleased to partner with the City of Grandview in providing funding for these much needed fire trucks to improve the safety of community residents. Adequate emergency response equipment is an essential basic need for all residents, particularly in rural America where resources are often limited for larger service areas," said Jackie J. Gleason, Washington State Director for USDA Rural Development.

The grant is being made available through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program. Information on this and other USDA Rural Development programs may be obtained from any USDA Service Center or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>. ###